CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS,

ALSO

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CONSTITUTING NEW COUNCILS, INSTALLING OFFICERS, AND OTHER FORMS.

BOSTON:
S. J. PARKHILL & CO., PRINTERS,
No. 222 FRANKLIN STREET.
1889.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS,

ALSO

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CONSTITUTING NEW COUNCILS, INSTALLING OFFICERS, AND OTHER FORMS.

BOSTON:
S. J. PARKHILL & CO., PRINTERS,
No. 222 FRANKLIN STREET.
1889.

INDEX.

PAGE

CONSTITUTION OF GRAND COUNCIL, ... 5

Style and Title, Jurisdiction, Powers, 5 — Members, 6 — Proxies, Officers and Election, 7 — Assemblies, Prerogatives and Duties of Officers, 8 — Committee on By-Laws, 9 — New Councils, Fees for Dispensation and Charter, 10.

SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, ... 11

Members, Duties of Officers, Shall be a Member of but one Council, 11 — Obligation, Assemblies, Annual Returns, 12 — Degrees, Fees and Rule of Succession; Application for Degrees, 13 — Fees for Degrees to be Paid for, Sojourners, Questions, 15 — Regalia, Work to be Uniform, Diplomas, Amendments, 16.

STATIONS AND JEWELS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL, ... 17

STATIONS AND JEWELS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS, . . 18

ORDER OF CEREMONIES IN CONSTITUTING AND DEDICATING NEW COUNCILS AND INSTALLING OFFICERS, ... 19

FORMS, ... 30

Petition for Dispensation, Form of Dispensation, 30 — Petition for Charter, Form of Charter, 32 — Form of Proxy, 34 — Form of Dimit, 34.

GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—GRAND COUNCIL.

STYLE AND TITLE.

SECTION 1. The style and title of this body is "THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

JURISDICTION.

SECT. 2. Its jurisdiction extends over the territorial limits of Massachusetts, and the Grand East of this body shall be located in the city of Boston.

POWERS.

SECT. 3. In it alone is vested the right and duty, which it cannot delegate, to superintend and govern all Councils of Royal and Select Masters within the jurisdiction.

It has exclusive power to grant Dispensations and Warrants for forming and opening new Councils, and to extend or revoke the same.

It enacts laws, issues edicts and amends and repeals the same.

It censures, suspends and erases Councils, and disciplines any of the members, for violation or neglect of its laws and edicts.

It has supreme power and authority, throughout this jurisdiction, in all matters pertaining to Councils of Royal and Select Masters, and the Appendant Degree of Super-Excellent Master, subject only to the Ancient Landmarks.

MEMBERS.

SECT. 4. It shall consist of a Most Illustrious Grand Master; Deputy Grand Master; Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; Grand Treasurer; Grand Recorder; Grand Chaplain; Grand Lecturer; Grand Master of Ceremonies; Grand Captain of the Guard; Grand Conductor; Grand Steward; Grand Sentinel; *ex-officiis*, of all Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work; of the Thrice Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work, for the time being, of Subordinate Councils under this jurisdiction; and of all Past Thrice Illustrious Masters of such Subordinates, so long as they are members of a Council under this jurisdiction in good standing.

The above-named Present and Past Officers (the Grand Sentinel excepted), and Representatives or their proxies, and Past Thrice Illustrious Masters of Subordinate Councils, are the only voters in this Grand Council. Each Subordinate Council under this jurisdiction shall, in all elections and other business in this Grand Council, be entitled to three votes, which may be cast by one or more of its representatives. Each member has but one vote. In case of a tie, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may give the casting vote.

PROXIES.

SECT. 5. The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, of this Grand Council, and the Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, being unable to attend the Assemblies in person, shall have the power to appoint a proxy, who shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his constituent, except that of taking his rank in the Grand Council.

Thrice Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, and Principal Conductors of the Work, for the time being, of Subordinate Councils, being unable to attend the Assemblies of this Grand Council in person, shall have the power to appoint a proxy, who shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his constituent, except that of taking his rank in this Grand Council.

Such proxy must, at the time of his appointment, be a member of the same Subordinate Council as his principal, and must present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment.

OFFICERS AND ELECTION.

SECT. 6. The first five officers shall be chosen by written or printed ballot at the Annual Assembly; the others by appointment of the Most Illustrious Grand Master; and the officers so elected and appointed shall be installed during said Assembly. *Provided*, *however*, that if any officer shall be absent, the Grand Master may determine the time and place for his installation.

No Companion is eligible to any office in the Grand Council unless he be a member of some Subordinate Council under this jurisdiction.

No Companion, except a Past Thrice Illustrious Master, is eligible to the office of Most Illustrious Grand Mas-

ter; and no Companion shall hold the office for more than three years successively, or hold any office in a Subordinate Council during his term of office in the Grand Council.

Any Companion who shall have been regularly elected and duly installed as Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council, shall be deemed a Past Thrice Illustrious Master so far as this section relates.

ASSEMBLIES.

SECT. 7. The Grand Council shall meet on the second Wednesday in December, annually, at such place and hour as the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint, for the transaction of such business as shall be presented.

Special Assemblies may be called at the pleasure of the Most Illustrious Grand Master; but no business shall be done at a Special Assembly other than that specified in the notice for the Assembly.

PREROGATIVES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECT. 8. It is the duty of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, in person or by one of his Council, to visit and examine every Subordinate Council in the jurisdiction, at least annually, and cause a report of the same to be made at the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

He shall have power to grant dispensations for any and all purposes within the scope of his duties; but such authority shall not be exercised by the Deputy Grand Master, except in the absence of the Grand Master from the jurisdiction or from other inability; nor by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, except in the similar absence or inability of both of his superiors.

It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to receive and be the custodian of all the funds of the Grand Council; pay all bills approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, and all appropriations made by the Grand Council

and attested by the Grand Recorder. He shall report at the Annual Assembly the amount of his receipts and expenditures for the year.

It is the duty of the Grand Recorder annually to communicate to the Grand Recorder of all State Grand Councils, a list of all the Grand Officers of this Grand Council, and such other matters as the Most Illustrious Grand Master shall deem expedient, or as shall be ordered by this Grand Council. He shall furnish each Subordinate Council with the proper blanks, notifying them to fill out and transmit the same immediately after the election in such Council; shall notify each Subordinate Council and permanent member of this Grand Council of any proposed alterations, additions or amendments to these Grand Constitutions at least twenty days before the time of the Assembly when such proposed alterations, additions or amendments are to be acted upon, and shall also notify the members of this Grand Council of the time and place of each annual and special Assembly.

COMMITTEES AND BY-LAWS.

SECT. 9. At each annual Assembly of the Grand Council, a Finance Committee, consisting of three members of the Grand Council, shall be appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and report to the Grand Council at the annual Assembly an account of the receipts and expenditures of the year, with a statement of all funds in the hands of the Grand Treasurer. He shall also appoint a Committee on By-Laws: consisting of three Companions, whose duty it shall be to examine all By-Laws, amendments or additions thereto, or alterations therein, referred to them; and they shall report their finding to the Grand Council at the next annual Assembly; and no By-Law shall be valid until it shall have been so examined and reported upon, and approved

by vote of this Grand Council. *Provided, however*, that if any By-Law shall be so examined and recommended to the Grand Master, his approval shall remain in force until the succeeding annual Assembly.

NEW COUNCILS.

SECT. 10. Dispensations for forming and opening new Councils may be issued by the Most Illustrious Grand Master during recess of the Grand Council only; Dispensations so issued to be in force only until the succeeding annual Assembly of this body, unless continued by vote thereof; provided, however, that no Dispensation shall be issued to a less number than nine Royal and Select Masters, nor without the consent of the Council nearest to the place where the new one is to be located; and if in that town or city there is more than one, then the consent of all shall be obtained.

Charters shall be granted by vote of the Grand Council alone, and at the annual Assembly.

FEES FOR DISPENSATION AND CHARTER.

SECT. 11. The fees for a Dispensation shall be five dollars to the Grand Council and two dollars to the Grand Recorder; and for a Charter, thirty dollars to the Grand Council and five dollars to the Grand Recorder.

In no case shall a Dispensation or Charter be issued until the required fees shall have been paid to the Grand Recorder.

ARTICLE II. — SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. Every Subordinate Council shall consist of a Thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Chaplain, Master of Ceremonies, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Sentinel, and such other officers and members as may be found convenient.

The first five officers shall be elected by written or printed ballots; the others may be appointed by the Thrice Illustrious Master.

The officers thus chosen shall serve until their successors shall have been installed.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECT. 2. The Thrice Illustrious Master of a Subordinate Council has it in special charge to see that the By-Laws of his Council and this Grand Constitution are duly observed; that accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered; that regular returns to this Grand Council are made annually; and that the annual dues are promptly paid. He calls special Assemblies of his Council at pleasure; and it is his duty, with the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, to attend all Assemblies of this Grand Council.

SHALL BE A MEMBER OF BUT ONE COUNCIL.

SECT. 3. No Companion shall hold membership in more than one Council within this jurisdiction at the same time; and no Companion having been elected an honorary member of a Subordinate Council within this jurisdiction, shall have the right to vote or hold office in in such Council, unless he is at the time an actual member of such Council.

No Companion shall be constituted into a new Council until he shall have been regularly discharged from the Council with which he is affiliated.

OBLIGATIONS.

SECT. 4. The officers of each Subordinate Council, before installation, and every candidate, upon admission, shall take an obligation of fealty to this Grand Council, in which they shall be required to support its Constitution and obey its edicts.

ASSEMBLIES.

SECT. 5. Every Council shall be required to hold not less than four assemblies in each year, and one of these shall be the Annual Assembly.

No assembly can be held unless there shall be nine Select Masters present.

For the transaction of business and balloting on candidates the Council must be open on the Royal or Select Degree.

The Annual Assembly in each and every Council, at which the officers shall be elected, must be held in September or October.

ANNUAL RETURNS.

SECT. 6. Each Subordinate Council shall make a return, ending with October, to the Grand Recorder of this Grand Council, on or before the tenth day of November, annually, of the roll of its officers; of its members, once in three years; of all candidates for the degrees, accepted or rejected; of all members who have dimitted or deceased, or who have been suspended or expelled during the year; and shall pay to this Grand Council two dollars for each candidate on whom the Degree of Royal Master has been conferred, and an annual fee of

three dollars. Provided, however, that, if any Council shall neglect to make its annual return until after the date above specified, the annual fee shall be five dollars.

DEGREES, FEES AND RULE OF SUCCESSION.

SECT. 7. No Subordinate Council shall confer the Degrees for a less sum than fifteen dollars, nor on any person who shall not have previously received the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

The Degrees in the Council shall be conferred in the following order: 1. Royal Master; 2. Select Master; 3. Super-Excellent Master.

APPLICATION FOR DEGREES.

SECT. 8. All applications for the Degrees in a Subordinate Council shall be made to the Council in the town or city where the applicant resides, if there be a Council therein; but if there be no such Council, he shall apply to the Council nearest to his residence. Such applicant may, on obtaining the consent of the nearest Council to his residence, apply to some other Council. Each application shall be signed by the applicant, accompanied by a certificate signed by three Select Masters, in the following form:

To the Thrice Illustrious Master, Officers and Companions of Council of Royal and Select Masters:

I, , having regularly received the several degrees from Entered Apprentice to that of Royal Arch Mason inclusive, in duly constituted Masonic bodies, and being desirous to make further progress in Masonry, do hereby offer myself as a Candidate for the Degrees conferred in your Council, and promise, if admitted, to conform to all your requirements.

Place of birth,

Date of birth,

My place of residence is
Occupation,
Place of business,
Received the Degree of Master Mason in the month of
A. D. , in Lodge,
under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of
Member of Lodge.
Received the Royal Arch Degree in the year 188 , in
Chapter, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter
of
Member of Chapter.
I have before applied for said Degrees.

[*Candidate's Signature in full.*]

_____

Boston, A. L. 588 .

We, the subscribers, Select Masters of Regular Standing, do hereby certify that we are acquainted with Comp.
the above-named applicant, that we know him to be a regular Royal Arch Mason in good standing, and believe he is worthy the honor he solicits.

_____

_____

_____

Said petition shall be referred to a Committee, of not less than three members, and no ballot shall be taken on such petition in less time than fourteen days after it has been received, nor at any other than a stated assembly, except by dispensation from the Most Illustrious Grand Master; and no candidate for the Degrees shall be declared elected except by a unanimous vote in his favor.

When a petition for the Degrees has been received by the Recorder, it shall not be withdrawn, except it is found that the candidate does not live within the jurisdiction of the Council.

No candidate whose petition for the Degrees has been rejected in any Council shall be proposed in any other Council in this jurisdiction within three years, without unamimous consent of the Council so rejecting.

FEES FOR DEGREES TO BE PAID FOR.

SECT. 9. No Subordinate Council shall confer the Degrees on any person whatever, without the full payment of the fees for the same, as required by the By-Laws of such Subordinate Council; and no Council shall remit the fees paid for the Degrees, or make any appropriation to any person for the purpose of relieving such person from the payment of such fees.

SOJOURNERS.

SECT. 10. No Subordinate Council shall confer the Degrees upon any sojourner from any State or place in which there is a Council regularly established, except by consent of the Council having jurisdiction.

Any Council may take cognizance of the conduct of sojourning Companions.

QUESTIONS.

SECT. 11. At any Assembly of Subordinate Councils all questions (except the admission of candidates and members, and of matters specially reserved by the By-Laws), shall be decided by a majority vote — the presiding officer, if a member, being entitled to one vote, and, in case of a tie, to the casting vote.

REGALIA.

SECT. 12. The regalia of this Grand Council and its Subordinates is such as is from time to time approved by this Grand Body.

WORK TO BE UNIFORM.

SECT. 13. The several Councils in this jurisdiction are required, in their work, to follow the ritual authorized by this Grand Council; to secure this, the Grand Lecturer, or a Companion specially appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, shall be regarded as competent

authority. The Council so employing him shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services.

The Grand Master shall have power to order an exemplification of the work under control of this Grand Council, at his discretion.

DIPLOMAS.

SECT. 14. The fee to be paid to this Grand Council for a diploma, shall be one dollar each, and the several Councils are hereby required to present to each and every Companion receiving the Degrees therein a diploma, duly certified.

No diploma except that authorized by this Grand Council shall be used in this jurisdiction, and all officers, Grand and Subordinate, are hereby forbidden to sign any other.

AMENDMENTS.

SECT. 15, This Grand Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any Assembly; but no alteration or amendment shall be acted upon unless notice of the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been sent to each subordinate Council under this jurisdiction and permanent member of this Grand Council, as provided in Article I, Section 8.

STATIONS AND JEWELS

OF THE

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

STATIONS.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master, in the East; the Deputy Grand Master, on the right of the M.·. I.·. G.·. Master; the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, on the left of the M.·. I.·. G.·. Master; the Grand Treasurer, on the right, in front of the D.·. G.·. Master; the Grand Recorder, on the left, in front of the G.·. P.·. C.·. of the W.·.; the Grand Lecturer, on the right of the D.·. G.·. M.·.; the Grand Master of Ceremonies, in front of the G.·. Recorder; the Grand Captain of the Guard, in the West; the Grand Conductor, in the South; the Grand Steward, on the left of the G.·. C.·. of the G.·.; the Grand Sentinel, at the door outside.

JEWELS.

The jewels of all the officers and members are to be of gold, or a metal resembling it in color, suspended from collars, and contained in a triangle surrounded by a wreath; the wreaths of the first two officers to be surmounted by crowns. In the triangle worn by the M.·. I.·. Grand Master are suspended the square, compasses and trowel; in that of the Deputy Grand Master, the square, level and trowel; in that of the Grand P.·. C.·. of the Work, the square, plumb and trowel; in that of the Past M.·. I.·. Grand Master, the compasses, extended on an arc

of sixty degrees, with the trowel in the centre; in that of the Grand Treasurer, the trowel and cross-keys; in that of the Grand Recorder, the trowel and cross-pens; in that of the Grand Chaplain, the trowel and Holy Bible open; in that of the Grand Lecturer, the trowel and 47th problem of Euclid; in that of the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the trowel and baton, crossed on the scroll; in that of the Grand Captain of the Guard, the trowel, sword and battle-axe, crossed; in that of the Grand Conductor, the trowel and cross-swords; in that of the Grand Steward, the trowel and sword; in that of the Grand Sentinel, the trowel and scimetar, crossed; in that of the Members, the trowel.

SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

The stations of the officers in Subordinate Councils are the same as those of corresponding officers in the Grand Council. The jewels are like those of the Grand Council excepting the wreath.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

IN

CONSTITUTING AND DEDICATING NEW COUNCILS AND INSTALLING THEIR OFFICERS.

The new Council will assemble in their hall and be called to order by their presiding officer.

The Grand Council will meet and open in an adjoining room.

A Committee from the new Council shall inform the Grand Master of Ceremonies that the new Council is prepared to receive the Grand Council. The Grand Master of Ceremonies will announce the same to the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

The committee shall then conduct the Grand Council to the hall of the new Council, where they shall be received with the usual honors — an ode being sung or appropriate music played while the Grand Council is entering.

The officers of the new Council shall resign their seats to the Grand Officers, their jewels having previously been deposited near the Most Illustrious Grand Master, and covered.

The Grand Chaplain then repeats the following

PRAYER.

Most Glorious Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, which was and which is, and which was to come, the Almighty; who shall not fear thee and glorify thy name? We would raise a memorial of thine abundant kindness, and tell out thy works with gladness.

We implore thee to let thy blessing be with us, and prosper the purposes of our present assembly.

Let this Council be established to thy honor and glory. May its officers be endowed with wisdom to discern and fidelity to pursue its true interests. May its members ever

be mindful of the duty they owe to their God, the obedience they owe to their superiors, and the love they owe to all mankind. May they honor thee by uprightness and fidelity in all their ways, so that whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, they may have strength to perform, and thus secure for themselves an inheritance of bliss in thy everlasting kingdom.

Glory be to God on High.

Response.— As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

MUSIC.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies says:— The Companions, petitioners for the Charter, will assemble west of the Altar, facing the East. He then says:

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER: — A constitutional number of Companions duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, having received from the Grand Council a Charter authorizing them to open and hold a regular Council of Royal and Select Masters in this place, are now assembled for the purpose of having the same legally constituted and solemnly dedicated in ample form.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master directs the Grand Recorder to read the Charter. After the reading of the Charter, the Most Illustrious Grand Master addresses the Companions forming the new Council as follows:

COMPANIONS: — Do you accept the Charter which has just been read in your hearing by the Grand Recorder, and do you promise to perform all the requirements therein contained, conforming in all your Masonic working to the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

COMPANIONS: — Do you still approve of the officers named in the Charter?

The answers being in the affirmative, the Most Illustrious Grand Master proceeds as follows:

By virtue of the high power in me vested as Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts, I now form and constitute you, my worthy Companions, into a regular Council of Royal and Select Masters, by the name of Council; and I hereby authorize and empower you and your successors to open and hold said Council, and to perform all such things as may appertain thereto, conforming in all things to the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And may the God of our fathers be with, guide, and direct you in all your doings.

MUSIC,

During which the Grand Master of Ceremonies shall uncover the jewels.

The following declaration shall be made by the Grand Chaplain:

To our Ancient and Most Illustrious Grand Master Solomon, King of Israel, we solemnly dedicate this Council. May the blessing of Almighty God rest upon all its members, and may he so direct their labors that his name may be magnified now and ever. Glory be to God on High.

Response.— As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Proclamation by the Grand Master of Ceremonies:

I am directed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master to proclaim, and I do hereby proclaim this Council, by the name of Council, constituted and dedicated in due and ancient form. All interested will be governed accordingly.

MUSIC.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies then presents the Thrice Illustrious Master, named in the Charter, saying:

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER: — I present to you Companion , for installation as Thrice Illustrious Master of this Council. I find him to be well skilled in the Royal Mysteries, zealous in diffusing the

sacred principles of our fathers, and one in whose integrity and fidelity his Companions of Council repose the highest confidence.

ADDRESS AND CHARGE TO THE THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER.

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION : — I take great pleasure in receiving you as the presiding officer of this Council. It is a station highly honorable to him who diligently and faithfully performs its duties. Your reputed Masonic knowledge precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties. I must, however, require your unequivocal assent to the following interrogatories :

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your best endeavors to correct the vices and purify the morals of your Companions, and promote the peace and prosperity of your Council ?

2. That you will not suffer your Council to be opened when there are less than nine Select Masters present.

3. That you will not suffer any one to pass the Circle of Perfection in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence ?

4. That you will not acknowledge nor hold intercourse with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority ?

5. That you will not admit any visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the degrees conferred therein, without his having previously been formally healed ?

6. That you will faithfully observe and support such By-Laws as may be made by your Council, in conformity with the Constitution and General Regulations of the Order.

7. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers, when duly installed, and sustain them in the discharge of their lawful duties ?

Do you submit to all these requirements, and promise to observe and practice them faithfully ?

Response.— I do.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies conducts the Thrice Illustrious Master to the altar; then the Grand Chaplain, who offers the following :

PRAYER.

O Eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of every good and perfect gift, we approach thee with reverence and implore thy blessing upon the Companion elected to preside over this Council. Fill his heart with thy love, that his words and actions may proclaim thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service ; animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors, that he may teach thy judgments and laws ; and grant him, we beseech thee, that sure trust in thee which will enable him to live according to thy will, impartially administering justice, and faithfully maintaining true religion and virtue in the Council over which he presides. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands.

Hear thou in heaven, thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions.

Glory be to God on High.

Response.— As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master administers the following :

OBLIGATION.

I, , do solemnly promise that I will faithfully, and to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and that I will strictly conform to the requirements of the By-Laws of this Council and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addresses the Thrice Illustrious Master as follows :

With entire confidence in the rectitude of your intentions and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, I invest you with the jewel of your office.

I present you the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, together with the Trowel.

The Holy Bible, that Great Light in every degree in Freemasonry, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path ; it will strengthen our faith, inspire our hope, and lead us to noble deeds of charity to all mankind.

The Square and Compasses teach us to practice the precepts of the moral law, and to bring our passions and prejudices in subjection to the will of our Heavenly Father.

The Trowel teaches us to cultivate those social virtues which will cement us into one sacred society of Companions and Brothers.

I present you the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Council, and also the By-Laws of your Council. You will cause them to be frequently read and punctually obeyed.

I also commit to your charge the Charter, by the authority of which this Council is held; you are carefully to preserve and duly transmit it to your successor in office.

I present you the Records of your Council; it is your duty to see that full and accurate records of the proceedings of this Council are kept by the Recorder.

Lastly, I place in your hands this Gavel, the emblem of authority, one blow of which will always command attention.

MUSIC.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master then conducts the Thrice Illustrious Master to his seat, and says:

Companions of Council, behold your Thrice Illustrious Master, and salute him with the (public or private) honors of a Royal and Select Master.

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER: — Having been honored with the free suffrages of your Companions, and elevated to the highest office within their gift, it becomes your duty to set them an example of diligence, industry and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties, and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by imprudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your charge will call for your best exertions and the exercise of your best faculties.

As the representative of the wise King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the sacred traditions and illustrate the moral principles of the Order; to cherish the worthy, and to hold in due veneration the Ancient Landmarks.

By a frequent recurrence to the By-Laws of your Council and the General Regulations and Constitution of the Grand Council, you will be enabled to fulfil the important obligations resting upon

you with honor to yourself and credit to the Craft. And may He, without whose approving smile our labors are all in vain, give strength to your endeavors and support to your exertions.

The Thrice Illustrious Master makes his appointments, and resigns the East to the Grand Master.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies presents each of the officers in turn, to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, who administers an obligation similar to that given to the Thrice Illustrious Master, and addresses each as follows:

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER.

ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION: — It is with great pleasure that I now invest you with the jewel of your office.

The duties of the important station to which your Companions have elevated you will require your constant and earnest attention. You are to aid and support your Chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you will preside in the Council, and discharge all the important duties pertaining to his station.

Although the representative of a king, and elevated in rank above your Companions, you should never forget that, in all the duties you owe to God, your neighbor and yourself, you and they stand upon the same level of equality.

Let the bright example of your illustrious predecessor in the Grand Council at Jerusalem stimulate you to the faithful performance of every duty, and when the King of Kings shall summon you to his immediate presence, may you receive from his hand a crown of glory that shall never fade away.

MUSIC.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK.

ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION: — As the third officer of the Council, I invest you with this jewel. In the absence of your superior officers you will be required to perform the duties pertaining to their respective stations; and as the interests of your Council ought never to suffer from the want of intelligence in its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always qualified and prepared to meet any emergency that may arise.

Let it be your constant care to preserve harmony and unanimity of

sentiment among the members of your Council. Discountenance whatever may tend to create division and dissension in any of the departments of Masonry. And, as the glorious sun at its meridian height dispels the mists and clouds that obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the mists of jealousy and discord wherever they may appear.

MUSIC.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER.

COMPANION: — I now with pleasure invest you with the jewel of the responsible office to which you have been elected.

The qualities which should distinguish a treasurer are *accuracy* and *fidelity*.

From your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft, and your known integrity of character, I have no doubt that your duties will be faithfully performed.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER.

COMPANION: — The qualities which should distinguish you in discharging the duties pertaining to your station, are *correctness* in recording the proceedings of your Council, *judgment* in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be written, *promptness* in making returns to the Grand Council, *integrity* in accounting for all moneys that may pass through your hands, and *fidelity* in paying the same to the Treasurer. The possession of these qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for the important office to which you have been elected, and entertaining no doubt that you will discharge all the duties incumbent on you with fidelity and honor, I invest you with this jewel. And when you shall have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you be admitted to the Grand Council above and find your name recorded in the Book of Life.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN.

COMPANION: — As Chaplain of this Council I invest you with the jewel of your office. As you offer those solemn services which

created beings should constantly render to their Great Creator, may you by refining our morals, strengthening our virtues, and purifying our minds, prepare us for admission into the presence of our Supreme Master, where happiness will be as perfect as it is endless.

CHARGE TO THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

COMPANION: — I invest you with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to organize the Council, form and conduct all processions, introduce and accommodate visiting Companions, and attend to such other interests in the practice of our rite as the Thrice Illustrious Master shall direct. I present you the implement of your office in the confident belief that it is intrusted to competent and faithful hands.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

COMPANION: — Having been elected Captain of the Guard in this Council, I present you the jewel of your office. Guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful and the worthy. Be ever attentive to the commands of your Chief, and be always near at hand to see them duly executed.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR.

COMPANION: — The office to which you have been elected is one of much importance in the proceedings of this Council; with pleasure I invest you with the jewel of your office. In the discharge of your duties, be fervent and zealous; let uprightness and integrity attend your steps, justice and mercy mark your conduct and you will thus secure the respect and esteem of your Companions and the approbation of your conscience.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD.

COMPANION: — I invest you with the jewel of your office, in full confidence that you will guard with sleepless vigilance the entrance to the *secret vault*, and I trust that a just regard for the reputation of a good and faithful servant will ever stimulate you to the faithful performance of the trust reposed in you.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL.

COMPANION: — I take pleasure in investing you with the jewel of your office. This *sword* is placed in your hands to enable you to guard the Sanctuary against *intruders*. It should morally serve as a constant admonition to us to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts; to place a watch at the door of our lips; to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions; thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, and deed; and enabling us to preserve consciences void of offence towards God and man.

The Companions are called up and the Thrice Illustrious Master takes his station.

The following Proclamation is then made by the Grand Master of Ceremonies:

By order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, I proclaim that the officers of Council, elected and appointed, have been duly installed into their respective offices, and the Council is now constitutionally organized for business. All interested will take due notice, and be governed accordingly.

The Companions are seated, and the Most Illustrious Grand Master gives the charge to the Council:

CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL.

COMPANIONS: — From the nature of the Constitution of every society, some must of necessity *rule* and others *obey*. And while justice and moderation are required of the *officers* in the discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect for their rulers are equally demanded of the *members*. The relation is reciprocal.

The interests of each are identical; and neither can succeed without the other.

Let, therefore, brotherly love prevail among you; let each be emulous of the other in every good and perfect work; and so may your labors be crowned with abundant and deserved success; may the blessing of Heaven descend and rest upon you, each and every one, and may your felicity be immortal.

And now, and ever, Glory be to God on High.

MUSIC.

The Grand Chaplain then offers the following:

PRAYER.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, by whom we have been permitted to assemble together this evening, we praise thee for thy goodness and implore the continuance of thy fatherly protection. Most humbly do we beseech thee to be gracious to this Council. Pour upon it the continual dew of thy blessing, that it may always be kept in unity of spirit and in the bond of peace.

May its officers and members follow the example of that noble body of Masons who have gone before them, in all virtue and godly living, so that like them, when the work and discipline of life are ended, they may come to the unspeakable glories which thou hast prepared for those that love thee.

And now unto thee, who art able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of thy glory, with exceeding joy, even unto thee, the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, henceforth and forever.

Glory be to God on High.

Response.— As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Grand Officers retire, and the new Council is closed by its own officers.

FORMS.

FORM OF A PETITION FOR A DISPENSATION FOR A NEW COUNCIL.

To the M.·. I.·. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Massachusetts:

The undersigned petitioners, being Royal, Select and Super-Excellent Masters, having the prosperity of the Fraternity at heart, and being willing to exert their best endeavors to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Cryptic Masonry, respectfully represent that they are desirous of forming a new Council in the of , and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be named Council.

They, therefore, pray for a dispensation to empower them to assemble as a legal Council, conforming to the Regulations of the Grand Council.

They have nominated and do recommend Comp.·. A. B. to be the first T.·. I.·. Master, Comp.·. C. D. to be the first Deputy Master, and Comp.·. E. F. to be the first Principal Conductor of the Work of said Council. If the prayer of the petitioners shall be granted they promise strict obedience to the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council.

Dated at , , A. Dep. 28 .

N. B. – The above petition must be signed by not less than nine Select Masters, and be approved by the Council nearest to the proposed new one, which approval should always be obtained before presenting the petition to the M.·. I.·. Grand Master.

FORM OF DISPENSATION.

To all whom it may concern, GREETING:

[L. S.]

WHEREAS, a petition of sundry Companions, Royal and Select Masters, residing in or near the of , in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, praying that a Dispensation may be granted them to open and hold a Council of Royal and Select Masters in said ; and whereas the same has been duly recommended, as required by the Regulations of our Grand Council.

NOW, KNOW YE, that I, , Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts, by virtue of the power in me vested, do grant this my Dispensation to A. B., C. D. and E. F., the petitioners aforesaid, and to their associates; and empower them to open and hold a Council of Royal and Select Masters at the place aforesaid, to be called Council, and to confer the several degrees of Royal, Select and Super-Excellent Master upon such person or persons, possessing the requisite qualifications, as they may deem proper.

And I do by these presents appoint Companion A. B. as Thrice Illustrious Master, Companion C. D. as Deputy Master, and Companion E. F. as Principal Conductor of the Work; with continuance to them of the said powers and privileges until the next annual Assembly of our Grand Council, to be held on the second Wednesday of December, A. D. 18—, and no longer.

Provided, nevertheless, that the said officers and members of the said Council pay due respect to our Grand Council and to the Constitution and Edicts thereof, and in no way remove the Ancient Landmarks of our Order; otherwise this Dispensation, and all things therein contained, to be void and of no effect.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts, this day of , in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy- .

_____, *Most Illustrious Grand Master.*

Attest:

_____, *Grand Recorder.*

FORM OF A PETITION FOR A CHARTER.

To the M.·. I.·. Grand Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The undersigned petitioners, being Royal, Select and Super-Excellent Masters, respectfully represent they have been working

as a Council of Royal and Select Masters, by virtue of a Dispensation granted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, on the day of , 18—, in the of , county of , and Commonwealth aforesaid, and that they have returned their Dispensation to the Grand Council, together with their By-Laws and Records, which they submit for the approval of your Grand Council, with their doings under said Dispensation, and now pray for a Charter, and to have their Council regularly constituted and consecrated, and their officers duly installed under the same, according to the regulations of your Grand Council.

They have nominated and do recommend Comp.·. A. B. to be the first T.·. I.·. Master, Comp.·. C. D. to be the first Deputy Master, and Comp.·. E. F. to be the first Principal Conductor of the Work, of said Council.

If this prayer of the petitioners shall be granted, they promise a strict conformity to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Council.

Dated at , A. Dep. 28 .

N. B.— This petition must be signed by at least nine of the original petitioners for the Dispensation.

FORM OF CHARTER.

To all Illustrious Companions, Royal and Select Masters, throughout the Globe.

[L. S.] *The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sendeth greeting:*

Be it known, That in the pursuance of the powers vested in us by the Constitution of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts, and for sundry good and sufficient reasons and causes us thereunto moving, and reposing special confidence in the Masonic abilities of the following Companions, Royal and Select Masters, all resident in or near the , of , in the county of , in the Commonwealth aforesaid, we have constituted, and by these presents do constitute, A. B., C. D. and E. F., together with all their regular associates, Companions and successors, into a Council of Royal and Select Masters, by the name of Council of Royal and Select Masters, to take rank, date and precedence

from the in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and . And we do hereby authorize and empower them, the Companions aforesaid, or any nine of them, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to open and hold a Council of Royal and Select Masters in said , and to admit at their discretion any Royal Arch Masons to the degrees of Royal Master, Select Master and Super-Excellent Master; and for that purpose to open and hold Councils of Royal Masters, Select Masters and Super-Excellent Masters, agreeably to ancient usage and custom; also to make and establish By-Laws and regulations for the government of said Council in conformity to the Constitution of this Grand Council; and further, to order and establish such dues and fees for the admission of candidates and members as shall seem proper, and as are required by this Grand Council.

And we do hereby appoint Companion first Thrice Illustrious Master, Companion first Deputy Master, and Companion first Principal Conductor of the Work, of said Council.

And we do hereby enjoin upon the Companions of the said Council that they, or any number of them, do not at any time hold any private meetings or assemblies for Masonic purposes, except in the presence of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, or a Companion appointed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, or in presence of either the Thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master or Principal Conductor of the Work of said Council, for the time being, and; further, that they regularly pay or cause to be paid, annually, to this Grand Council all their lawful dues.

And it is absolutely required of the said Thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work. for the time being, that they attend regularly, either in person or by their proxies at stated Assemblies of this Grand Council.

In witness whereof, We, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work have hereunto subscribed our names and caused the Seal of our Grand Council to be affixed, and the same to be attested by the Grand Recorder, in the city of Boston, and Commonwealth aforesaid, this day of , in the year of our Lord one

thousand eight hundred and , and in the year of the Deposit two thousand eight hundred and

_____, *Most Illustrious Grand Master.*

_____, *Deputy Grand Master.*

_____, *Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.*

Attest:

_____, *Grand Recorder.*

FORM OF PROXY.

I, A. B., of Council, do hereby appoint Comp.·. C. D. my representative in the Grand Council of Massachusetts, at its next annual Assembly, to be held in Boston, on the day of December, A. D. 18—, empowering him to act in my behalf, hereby ratifying and confirming whatever he may lawfully do in said capacity. [SEAL.]

FORM OF DIMIT.

To all Royal and Select Masters, GREETING:

KNOW YE, that Companion was in good standing and clear of all charges on the books of Council of Royal and Select Masters, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, and by permission honorably withdraw his membership from said Council on the day of , 18—.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature and affixed the seal of Council, at , this day of , 18—.

[L. S.] _____, *Recorder.*